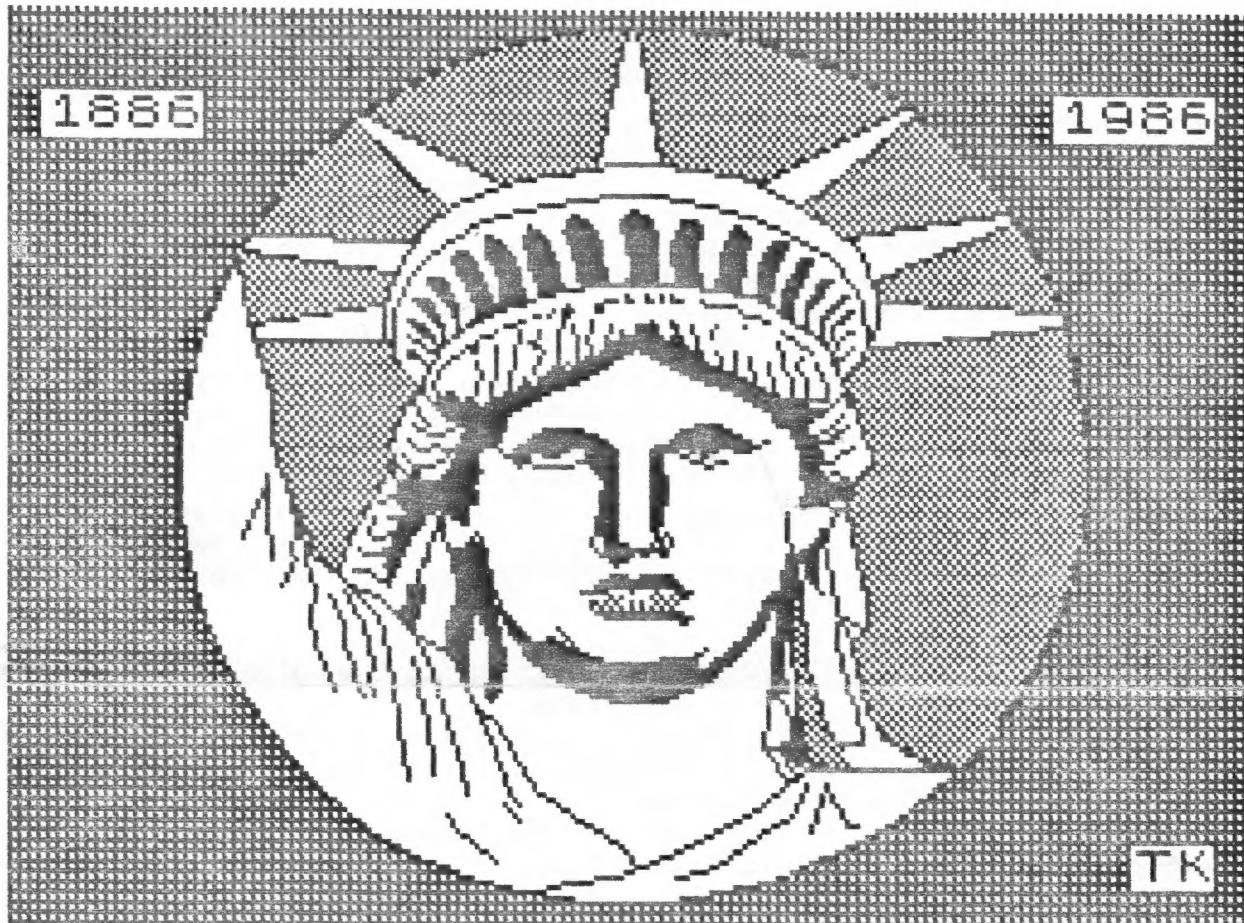


JULY

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EVERY FIRST FRIDAY EACH MONTH
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A short note to our friends from other newsletters and magazines. You are welcome to use any of our material, news, adds, or programs if YOU: (1) Tell where it came from (RAMTOP Cleveland, Ohio) and (2) The author's name that wrote the article. We would appreciate it if you would send us a copy of the newsletter that it appeared in! Unless otherwise notified we will do the same.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR NEWSLETTER!

 T/S RESOURCES

 news/rumors
 hardware software literature

 July 1986 by Andy Kosiorek

AMSTRAD / SINCLAIR

Sinclair User still continues to be my best source about the Amstrad/Sinclair affair. The July issue reports that confusion continues to increase about the exact terms of the Amstrad deal.

Amstrad's rights to Sinclair technology appear to apply to only current products, so they do not have exclusive world wide marketing rights. The various Timex divisions still have control of some market areas with their T/S product lines.

Who will make and market the proposed Oki and Pandora machines, is so far not possible to ascertain.

Production of the 1st Amstrad Spectrum, to be called the "Spectrum Plus Two" is now under way, and is expected to be on the market in the Autumn for about \$139.00. It will probably be introduced at the "Personnel Computer World" show in Sept. This machine will be very similiar to the existing Speccy Plus, but with a built in tape deck, and possibly 256K. They will be made at Amstrad's South Korea facility and Timex's Dundee plant.

Along with the Am/Speccy +2 will be a matching dot matrix printer, similiar to the one now supplied with the Amstrad word processors.

The QL situation is just as confusing. Negotiations by 3rd parties to buy out Amstrad's rights to date have not been successful. But Amstrad does not own the operating system software rights, so there are rumors that several QL "clones" will appear on the market this autumn, with disc drives.

Here in the USA, the Amstrad word processing computers, with 3" disk drives, are starting to appear at some Sears' stores. But the products are not in the 1986 winter catalog. Sears is also carrying supplies of the 3" disks.

 T/S RESOURCES

 news/rumors
 hardware software literature

 July 1986 - continued

TIMEX / SINCLAIR

When Timex obtained the rights to the US market for the ZX-81 (T/S 1000), they also established a shared technology agreement with Sir Clive. They went on to develop the 1500, 2020, 2040, 2050, and 2068. After they closed down the U.S. market, they continued in Portugal to develop a disk drive system, with an excellant operating system, (TOS), and a CP/M option.

Prior to Clives' Amstrad sell out, Timex obtained, as payment for Sinclair manufacturing debts rights to additional world markets. Timex of Portugal will now supply Sinclair micros to Poland and Mexico. A \$50 million agreement was reached with a Polish firm to supply 800,000 2068's, and 200,000 twin 3" FDDs to the eastern bloc countries.

In Mexico they plan to market the 1500, 2048, 2080, a serial interface, and a new version of the 2040. The first shipment of 10,000 units will be this summer

The 1500's will be black with a silver keyboard. The 2048 is the 2068 without the cartridge dock. The 2080 is a Seikosha GP-1000 printer.

The new 2040 is a 5", 40 column plain paper dot matrix printer (the Seikosha GP-505). This little printer, which comes with its own interface, has been on sale in the UK for some time now. It will work with any of the ZX, Spectrum, 2068 series.

After having a demo of the Portugese ROM, the Polish ROM should be very interesting!!!

If this takes off and expands into the other eastern European countries, and central america, just think of the possibilities for Cleveland, a city with just about every nationality group there is.

"Dobre szczescie Timex"

Good luck Timex!

SCROLLER

For the TS-1000/1500/ZX-81

by Theo Turk
July 7, 1986

This program, like my previous one is a basic "Scroll left" routine. However, with my last one, I could only enter a 64 character message into memory. This program not only allows you to enter any message up to 15K characters in length but will also let you use various "flash words" in your message to emphasize certain portions.

There are various reports given, if in error. A report code of "2" means either that line 10 has been omitted or that one of the "flash words" is not enclosed by parenthesis. A report code of "B" means that you are trying to enter an empty string, or the length of the message in A\$ is <32 characters long or the length of a flash word is >25 characters long.

Keep in mind, each "flash word" must be enclosed by parenthesis and with any two flash words, the first character in each flash word (example 1) must be separated by >=32 characters.

TYPE IN THE FOLLOWING LINES:

To see what happens, RUN the program and in a few minutes the 300 bytes of Machine Code in B\$ will be placed into the REM Statement: Line 1.

As soon as the computer stops in Line 10, then SAVE a copy on tape, in case of errors.

NOW ADD:

```
10 INPUT A$  
20 RAND USR 16514  
30 STOP
```

RUN 10 and enter the following line which will include (2) flash words.

example...

"(CLEVELAND) MAY BE THE BEST LOCATION IN THE NATION, HOWEVER,

example...

I LEFT MY HEART IN (S A N F R A N C I S C O)."

If the display seems to working correctly, press "break" and delete lines (2 to 9).

NOTE. to introduce "flash words" into any message, simply enclose each one in parenthesis.

to terminate the program, press "break". NOTE: any error return or "break" will destroy part of the message stored.

Thanks IHEO for this fine article! We are in need of articles for the 1000/1500/ZX-81! Now for a NEW column from one of our younger members, GABE SCHAFFER, about the QL! Thanks GABE!

QoLumn

by Gabe Schaffer

Hello, everybody. This will hopefully become your monthly QL column. Now don't go screaming that it will be taking up at least 1/2 page in your RAMTOP, and there are only about 5 QL users! Bryan Lewis and my father and I (who are writing this), Gene Wilson, and Kelly (who's last name I don't know), may be the only QL users, but this column isn't going to be wasting space. It will have articles, programs, hints, and tips for the few who do have a QL, and may be able to help other people decide whether to buy one. Enough explaining. Let's start with a review:

APPEARANCE

On opening the big black and white box and removing the styrofoam, you see the QL, the TV cord, the LAN cord, the power cord, 2 rubber feet for the QL to stand on, 2 microdrive cartridge wallets and a four-ring binder with a manual inside. I got my QL from Brice Rd. Pharmacy, along with some other things which I'll review in later months. (It was a birthday present, and my father won't tell me the price. But you can ask him.)

The QL has two microdrives, a professional style QWERTY keyboard, five function keys, a yellow power light, two red microdrive lights, and four oddly positioned cursor keys. The keyboard is somewhat different from the 2068 keyboard as the QL has real, if nonstandard, keys (not chicklet or membrane, but not typewriter either). It also has a CTRL, an ALT, an ESC, a CAPS LOCK, a 'backwards L' shaped ENTER, no keywords, and no SYMBOL SHIFT. All of the cables come out of the back, as well as the ROM cartridge port. The microdrives are built onto the right side of the keyboard, and you can add up to six extra microdrives right next to the built-in ones. There's an expansion bank at the left hand side of the keyboard. There's no on/off switch, but there is a reset button next to the extra microdrive port. The power cord has an unusual 3-prong plug, and instead of the transformer being attached to the plug, it's in the middle of the cord.

UP and RUNNING

When first plugging in the QL, you see a lot of garbage on the screen. The screen clears for a few seconds, then you're confronted with the copyright, and the choice of pressing F1 for RGB monitor, or F2 for TV display. Monitor display is bigger than TV display, having more pixels across the screen, so software written for a monitor gets truncated in TV mode.

After pressing F1 or F2, if there's a cartridge in microdrive 1, and if there's a program on that tape called BOOT, then it will automatically be loaded and run. Otherwise, you will be put into the BASIC editor.

SuperBASIC

SuperBASIC is QL BASIC. It is very similar to 2068 BASIC, but with more commands and no single-touch keywords. Also, SuperBASIC doesn't need a LET (i.e. on the QL, a\$="hi" is the same as LET a\$="hi").

Another difference that I think you should know about is 'coercion'. Coercion is the means by which the computer automatically converts a string into a number, or a number into a string, so VAL and STR\$ aren't needed. Here is an example: if b\$="1" and c\$="2", then a\$=b\$+c\$ does not concatenate the strings, but produces the result of a\$="3". Concatenation requires the use of an ampersand (&) instead of a plus sign (+), whereby a\$=b\$&c\$="12".

SuperBASIC is sort of a mixture of BASIC and LOGO. It has procedures, local variables, repeat loops, and turtle graphics commands. But it also has ON..x..GOTO, ON..x..GOSUB, IF..THEN..ELSE, FOR..TO..STEP..NEXT, etc.

Compared to the 2068, the QL also has a lot of very good and very quick screen operations. These display functions, along with such topics as the QL printer and the QL's bundled software, will be reviewed in future columns.

To be continued next month...

BY TOM SIMON

DR. LLOYD DREGER HAS WRITTEN TWO BOOKS OF INTEREST TO OWNERS OF THE 2068. THE FIRST IS THE TIMEX/SINCLAIR 2068 ROM MANUSCRIPT. IT IS A COMPLETE DISASSEMBLY OF THE 2068 ROM WITH BOTH MACHINE CODE AND ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE WITH NOTES, COMMENTS AND CROSS REFERENCES TO THE SINCLAIR SPECTRUM ROUTINES. THE SECOND IS INTRODUCTION TO 2068 MACHINE CODE. DESCRIBED AS A SELF-TEACHING MANUAL FOR BEGINNING MACHINE CODE STUDENT THAT BRIDGES THE GAP BETWEEN ADVANCED BASIC AND MACHINE CODE. EACH IS PRICED AT \$16.95 OR BOTH FOR \$30.00. ADD \$2.50 FOR SHIPPING. THEY ARE AVAILABLE FROM SMUG, BOX 101, BUTLER, WI. 53007

BRIAN LEWIS HAS DESIGNED A TERMINAL EMULATOR PACKAGE FOR THE QL AND IBM PC. IT CONSISTS OF A DISK AND A MICRODRIVE CARTRIDGE AND LETS EACH MACHINE EXCHANGE DATA THROUGH THE RS232 PORTS. IT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE NOW FOR ABOUT \$13. WRITE BRIAN AT 1122 N. CARPENTER, BRUNSWICK, OHIO.

TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH MEMORY YOU HAVE FREE WHEN USING THE SPECTRUM ROM TRY THIS LINE: PRINT 65536 - USR 7962. THE RESULT IS THE SAME AS THE FREE COMMAND ON THE 2068.

SOME NEWS COMES TO US FROM THE TORONTO USER'S GROUP ABOUT THE LARKIN DISK DRIVE. THE LARKIN INTERFACE IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE TIMEX 1000 AND 1500. THE COMMANDS ARE LOAD, SAVE, FORMAT, DIRECTORY, DELETE, MOVE, COPY AND EXIT. THESE ARE THE SAME AS THE DOS ON THE 2068 VERSION OF THE LARKIN INTERFACE. THE FORMATED DISK WILL HOLD UP TO 54 FILES. THE COST OF THIS SYSTEM IS \$101.00 US DOLLARS INCLUDING SHIPPING. LARKIN HAS ALSO AN IMPROVED 2068 VERSION OF THE INTERFACE FOR DUAL DRIVES. WRITE TO LARKEN ELECTRONICS, R.R.#2, NAVAN, ONT., CANADA K4B 1H9.

WHILE SPEAKING OF DISK DRIVES, I HAVE GOTTEN MY OLIGER SYSTEM UP AND RUNNING. THE NMI MAKES THE SAVING OF MY COLLECTION OF PROGRAMS TO DISK A SNAP. JIM LEWIS PROVIDED ME WITH HIS VERSION OF A MENU FILE FOR DISK. THE LISTING IS BELOW. IT IS SET UP FOR 80 TRACK DRIVES WITH 16 FILES PER DISK. FOR 40 TRACK DRIVES THE NUMBER SHOULD BE HALVED. THE FILES ARE HELD IN ARRAYS THE FILE IS CLEARED AND RE-SAVED BY DELETING A REM STATEMENT & RUNNING. TO SAVE DATA IN THE ARRAYS THE LINE IS RETURNED TO THE STATUS OF A REM STATEMENT. ENTERING 0 WILL SEND A COPY TO THE 2040 PRINTER TO GLUE ON THE DISK SLEEVE. PERHAPS WITH A LARGE PRINTER YOU COULD ADD YOUR OWN SPECIFIC ROUTINE FOR 18 C.P.I. TO PRINT DIRECTLY ON THE SLEEVE.

```
5 BORDER 0: PAPER 0: CLS: INK 6
6 POKE 23658,8
7 REM 10UN-REM B, RUN TO CLEAR
8 REM DIM A$(16,28)
10 PRINT TAB 14;"MENU":PRINT ENTER 100 TO
    INPUT DATA FOR MENU""
```

```
20 FOR I=1 TO 16
30 PRINT I;") ";A$(I):NEXT I
40 INPUT "SELECT ";A
42 REM*****INPUT*****$*****$*****$*****
43 IF A=0 THEN COPY
44 IF A=100 THEN GOTO 100
45 IF A<1 OR A>16 THEN GO TO 40
50 LOAD /A
100 INPUT "FILE NUMBER TO SAVE?";A
110 INPUT "FILE NAME? ";B$
130 LET A$(A)=B$
135 SAVE /0
140 CLS: GO TO 10
```

FROM JIM DODRILL OF THE TORONTO USERS GROUP COME THESE POKES. WHEN SAVING A MULTI-PART PROGRAM INSERT POKE 23736,181 BETWEEN THE SAVE STATEMENTS AND THE COMPUTER WILL THEN SAVE ALL PARTS OF THE PROGRAM WITHOUT THE "START THE TAPE" PROMPT. POKE 23756,0 WILL CHANGE THE FIRST LINE OF A PROGRAM TO LINE 0. POKE 23692,255 WILL PROVIDE AUTOMATIC SCROLLING ON LONG TEXT PROGRAMS.

THE QZX NEWSLETTER IS PRIMARILY FOR HAM RADIO OPERATORS WHO ARE USING TIMEX EQUIPMENT. HOWEVER THEY HAVE QUITE A FEW HARDWARE ARTICLES AND FEATURES OF A TECHNICAL NATURE AND QUITE A LOT OF ARTICLES FOR ZX-81'S AND 1000'S. SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE \$12. PER YEAR. WRITE TO QZX, 2025 O'DONNEL DRIVE, LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO, 88001.

CHRIS RAYNAK HAS GOTTEN THE TSU BBS RUNNING NOW 24 HOURS A DAY. IT IS NOW BEING RUN ON AN ATARI 130XE WITH 3 DISK DRIVES. SO THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM FOR FILES AND PROGRAMS OF ALL KINDS. THERE ARE STILL SOME BUGS IN THE SOFTWARE THAT CHRIS IS WORKING ON, SO BE A BIT PATIENT. LETS GET THIS THING GOING SO IT WILL BE ONE OF THE BEST TIMEX BBS'S IN THE COUNTRY.

A WORD ABOUT MODEM PROGRAMS. THERE ARE NOW SEVERAL ON THE MARKET AND SOON A FEW MORE WILL BE AVAILABLE. KURT CASBY HAS ISSUED LOADER V WHICH SUPPORTS XMODEM TRANSFERS AS WELL AS HAVING THE ABILITY TO SEND TASWORD OR MSCRIPT FILES. THIS IS A MODIFICATION TO MTERMII. ZTERM IS A PROGRAM WHICH IS DESIGNED TO USE THE MODEM WITH THE OS-64. SOON TO BE RELEASED IS A REWORKED ENGLISH PROGRAM WHICH WILL SUPPORT HIGHER BAUD RATES AS WELL AS AN RS-232 MODEM. SOME OF THESE PROGRAMS MAY REQUIRE MODIFICATIONS TO YOUR HARDWARE OR AN RS-232 MODEM. CHECK WITH YOUR SUPPLIER FOR DETAILS.

FOR ANYONE WHO MAY BE IN THE PITTSBURG AREA IN THE FUTURE. THE PITTSBURG T/S USERS GROUP MEETS ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT ALLEGHENY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN WEST HALL. IF YOU ARE THERE YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK FOR FURTHER DIRECTIONS AS THIS IS ALL THE INFORMATION THAT I HAVE.

LASTLY YOUR SINCLAIR MAGAZINE REPORTS ABOUT THE FIRST 3-D GAME FOR THE QL. IT IS A FRENCH GAME CALLED THE WANDERER. IT USES THE ANAGLYPH METHOD FOR GETTING THE 3-D EFFECT. THE COST IS #19 AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM MOST MAIL ORDER AGENTS.

Hello again! It's been a while since the Computerfest, and many things have been happening lately. With the purchase of the AERCO disk system, I have been very busy converting all 38 tapes in my library to disc. Whew! I now have about 35 discs with stuff on them. Most of you readers probably know by now that I am one to tear apart everything I can get my hands on. This \$425 disc system is no exception! I am not going to write a review on it, because others have and I'm sure you've read one somewhere...

The first thing I did after converting all of my files was to explore the Z-DOS (Disc Operating System) on the interface board to see what was happening on that PC board on the back of my 2068. I found that AERCO has done some FANCY stuff with the memory in ROM.

As you know, the Timex ROM is 16K. Well, AERCO has added another 64K of RAM to the interface board. This means that the user has 112K of RAM to use. It is divided up into 8 chunks of 8K each. In order to insert the DOS into the TS system, they switched in 8K of RAM at the bottom of memory (locations 0-8192). They just copied the ROM into that RAM, and put their modifications there. If you have the AERCO system and HOT Z or some similar disassembler, you can very easily tell what they have done. But, it doesn't stop there. Since the bottom 8K of ROM is now RAM, you can go in and make your own modifications! I have made some rad mods to mine. For instance, I have completely re-defined the keyword table, changing PAUSE to WAIT. Also, remember the pause when deleting characters in a program line? Well, I've taken the pause out and now I have some super-fast delete key! But alas, only the first 8K is alterable. Read on as to why-

The second 8K is normally ROM. But, again, AERCO has modified the system to automatically switch in Z-DOS there. This is actually a replacement for the original syntax checker, as far as I can tell. If the command entered is not one of the DOS commands (CAT, FORMAT, ERASE, or MOVE), then control is returned to the regular TS ROM. It gets confusing!

There are also some neat things you can do with simple OUT commands to the disc system. You can turn on the drive lights, motors and likewise, turn them off. This can be cute: In the middle of a program, turn on the drives and print a message like "DELETING ALL FILES." That would scare a novice right out of his jeans!

Now, with the recent release of RP/M, the CP/M 2.2 compatible system, things will be picking up for the disc users!

I also happened to snag a 2050 modem while I was at the Computerfest. For only \$7, I couldn't pass it up! I already had the software to use for it, so I was set to go! Soon, things began to get boring, so I decided to start programming the modem. You may have heard of TS Tinyboard, a BBS system for the 2050 modem. I took the basic ideas, completely re-wrote the I/O drivers to suit my needs, and proceeded to write a BBS of my own! And with 800K of disc space to use, I can expand quite a bit! The board is coming along fine now. I plan to put it up for public use soon, when I can finance a separate phone line.

If anyone is interested in starting a BBS with their modem, write me and I'll be happy to help them along!

Well, my AERCO/SINCLAIR/WESTRIDGE system (I put AERCO first because it's the most expensive part!) is serving me fine, except for some power problems that has been causing overheating and it's bogging down my modem. Til at AERCO has given me some tips as how to solve it, and it works! Well, until next time: Talk soft and carry a big byte...

Eric Yruegas
4706 Langley Ave.
Whitehall, OH 43213-3124

Here is a directory program for the OLIGER disk system. It is setup for DSDD, Olicer's default. For those with Quad, change line 10 to 1 TO 16 and in line 20 remove the ":" at the end. Also, change line 70 and use an INPUT statement. Using the program as listed is a real snap! to load just press LOAD, ENTER and your directory is in. Now press 1-8 and your program loads! To add programs to the directory, EDIT 100 then GOTO 9999. It will be resaved to disk and rerun! **JGD**

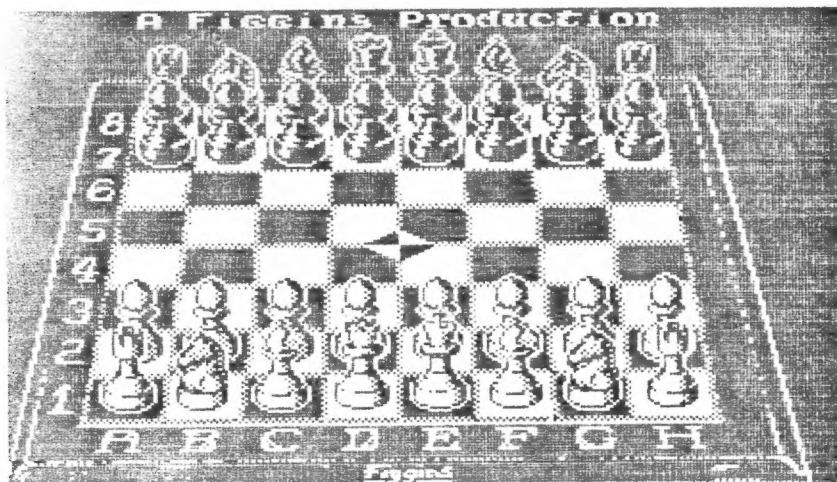
DISK DIRECTORY

- 1 - TASWORD/TASPRINT
- 2 - TASWORD
- 3 - MSCRIPT
- 4 - TECHDRAW JR.
- 5 - ARTWORK
- 6 - MULTIDRAW 2068
- 7 - MEGADRAW
- 8 - MTERM II

```

4 BORDER 1: INK 7: PAPER 0: C
L5
 5 PRINT AT 1,1; PAPER 2;""
 6: FLASH 1;" DISK DIRECTORY "
: FLASH 0;""
 6 PRINT ""
 8 POKE 23655,8
10 FOR n=1 TO 8
20 READ a$: PRINT " " ; n; " - "
:a$/
25 PRINT
30 NEXT n
34 INK 4
35 PLOT INK 4;0,0: DRAW 255,0:
DRAW 0,175: DRAW -255,0: DRAW 0
,-175: PLOT 1,1: DRAW 253,0: DRA
0,0,173: DRAW -253,0: DRAW 0,-17
3: INK 7
37 PLOT 9,20: DRAW 237,0: DRAW
0,127: DRAW -237,0: DRAW 0,-127
40 BEEP .3,20
50 PRINT AT 20,8; INVERSE 1; P
APER 1;"PRESS 1 TO 8 ONLY"
60 BEEP .3,25
70 LET n$=INKEY$
80 IF n$<"1" OR n$>"8" THEN GO
TO 70
90 LOAD /VAL n$
100 DATA "TASWORD/TASPRINT ","T
ASWORD","MSCRIPT","TECHDRAW JR.
","ARTWORK","MULTIDRAW 2068",""
MEGADRAW","MTERM II"
9999 SAVE /0: RUN

```

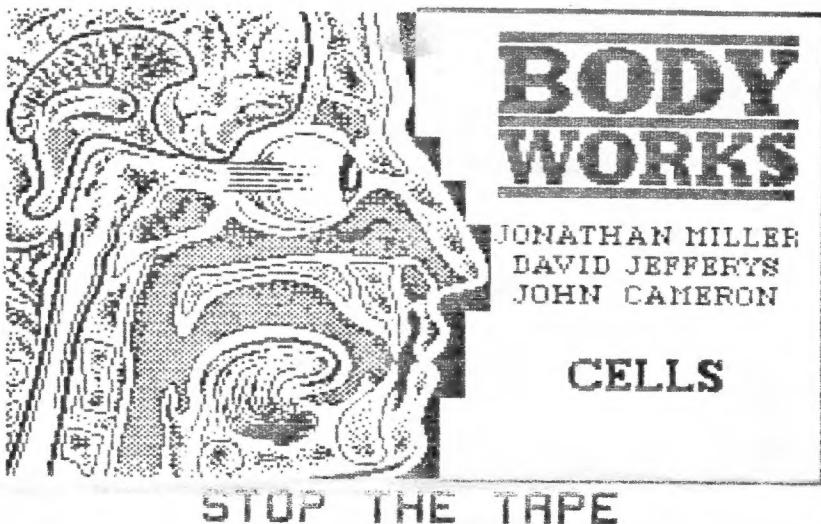



Here are a couple of screen copies made with my SG-10 and the print driver in the OLIGER disk system. To use it, all you do is enter: LET /p=o/g. This tells the system that it will send all printer output to an SG-10.

Do you want instructions (y/n)

To actually get the copy, you may use COPY/ ENTER or press the NMI button and then the "Z" key. The program will stop, send a screen copy to the printer (all 24 lines) and then resume the program.

8



From:
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FIRST CLASS MAIL